

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 H-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 GAC-01 ACDA-19 IO-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/ K: DLRANARD: DPW

5/21/73 EXT. 20780

APPROVED BY EA/ K: DLRANARD

DOD/ISA - MR. VANDEGRIFT

PM - MR. MACCALLUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096984

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS

SUBJ: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

REF: (A) SEOUL 2993 (B) STATE 92776

1. IN THE ORIGINAL PRESENTATION OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO CONGRESS AS WELL AS IN THE ENSUING HEARINGS SINCE THEN ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE, VARIOUS SPEAKERS, CONGRESSIONAL AS WELL AS EXECUTIVE HAVE RELATED THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER US TROOP WITHDRAWALS. THE RICHARDSON EXCHANGE WITH SENATOR PELL IS SIMPLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF SUCH VIEWS.

2. YOU ARE AWARE THAT THERE WILL BE NO REDUCTION IN US PRESENCE DURING FY'74. PLANNING FOR FY 75 AND BEYOND IS STILL UNDER INTERAGENCY REVIEW AND NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

3. AS NECESSARY TO CLARIFY RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT YOU SHOULD POINT TO PARA 2 REFTEL B IN WHICH RICHARDSON STATED
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" WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE DAY WHEN NO US FORCES WOULD BE NEEDED IN A CONTINGENCY." YOU MAY ALSO REFER TO RICHARDSON TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS ON THE FY 1974 DEFENSE BUDGET AND FY 1974-78 PROGRAM.

AT THAT TIME SPEAKING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MODERNIZATION PLAN, RICHARDSON STATED " THE ROK HAS ASSUMED GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT FORMULATED 5- YEAR MODERNIZATION PLAN. HOWEVER, THE PRESENCE OF SOME US FORCES IN THE ROK WILL REMAIN IMPERATIVE." RUSH

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